

receiving in the computer a user input that selects an instruction for assembling a hard copy document;

determining in the computer a visual appearance of the electronic document once printed with the content arranged according to the formatting information and assembled in accordance with the instruction; and

producing as output the determined visual appearance.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 10-28, 30-31, 38-40 and 42-45 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,774,332 ("Tabata") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,696,605 ("Miller"). New claim 46 has been added. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection.

Tabata teaches an electronic photocopier that optically scans a hard copy document. The photocopier determines the size of the hard copy document (e.g., A3 or B5 paper), and then prints the scanned image onto one or two sheets of paper of a standard size (e.g., A4 paper). The user can set the stapling position on the printed copy by selecting an option displayed on an LCD screen.

Miller teaches a laser based printing system. Like Tabata, Miller optically reads a hard copy document with a scanner section, and then copies the scanned image onto print media in a printer section 8.

Claim 1 calls for determining in the computer a visual appearance of an electronic document once printed and assembled in accordance with an instruction, and then displaying the determined visual appearance. The other independent claims include similar requirements. The Examiner suggests that these limitations are taught by Tabata. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's position.

Tabata teaches a conventional photocopier control panel in the form of an LCD display screen with a touch panel (see column 20, lines 42-44 of Tabata). Like other conventional control panels, Tabata uses iconic (picture) representations to present stapling options to the user on a touch panel. However, Tabata does not actually determine and then display the visual appearance of the electronic document as if printed and assembled in accordance with an instruction. Tabata's simple iconic representations on a touch screen do not include the content

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(e.g., text, graphics, etc.) of the electronic document, and thus do not have the visual appearance of the electronic document as if printed. The Examiner should note that Tabata never discusses using the scanned image except for transfer onto the recording paper. Other than the possible rotation of the entire image to fit onto the recording paper, Tabata does not discuss manipulating or modifying the image data, as would be required to determine and then display the visual appearance of the electronic document as if printed and assembled. Thus, the Examiner's characterization of Tabata's disclosure appears to be a hindsight interpretation based on Applicants' specification.

Since neither Tabata nor Miller teach determining in the computer a visual appearance of an electronic document once printed and assembled in accordance with an instruction and displaying the determined visual appearance, the combination of Tabata with Miller cannot render the claims obvious.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, and requests a prompt notice to that effect.

Please apply any charges not covered or any credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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